GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3164
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
USE OF BANNED SEA SHELLS
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the production and export of certain Mollusca Sea Shells has gone down drastically from Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to ban on certain sea shells from 2001 onwards and their production and export has increased two folds from Chennai, Rameshwaram and Kolkata etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any representation from Handicraft Association of Andaman and Nicobar Islands requesting for giving relaxation of certain banned Mollusca Sea Shells as local items; and

(c) if so, the action the Government has taken to ensure the use of adequate local sea shells by the Handicrafts Artisans for revenue generation ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) Government had vide its notification dated 11th July 2001 included fifty two species of Molluscs in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Thereafter, several representations including from the Andaman Sea Shell Handicrafts Association, Port Blair were received requesting for giving relaxation for certain molluscan species that are used as handicraft items. After careful consideration, the Central Government excluded twenty eight species from the Schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The ban imposed on the export of certain species of Molluscs is applicable through out the country. Therefore, the question of any increase/decrease in the export of these banned species should not arise.